

funding we secured for America's veterans is no longer in the bill before us. Our veterans deserve better.

Funding was also removed for emergency transportation relief in the gulf. In the Senate, we passed \$200 million in emergency assistance for transit authorities in the gulf region. FEMA, which is helping to fund transit service in New Orleans, is going to stop the funding for that at the end of this month. That is going to force New Orleans to cut back transit service even more. Cutting off transit routes is not going to help our gulf coast cities recover. Throwing busdrivers on unemployment lines is not going to help them recover.

Another item cut from the legislation was tenant-based rental assistance for the gulf. That funding was intended to serve about 44,000 families, including families that received HUD funding prior to Katrina and many homeless families. The bill we passed in the Senate expanded the purposes of that money to include the reconstruction and repair of HUD projects in the afflicted region, many of them damaged considerably. It provided vouchers for about 4,500 needy citizens in the region, particularly the disabled and homeless. That funding is now gone, and we are going to see some pretty vulnerable families in the gulf coast without any ability to stay in the homes in which they currently are trying to stay.

Finally, this bill improperly includes a budget ceiling that is going to affect every single spending bill we do this year. I believe the supplemental emergency spending bill is the wrong place to enact a budget that never passed the Senate floor. It is going to be hard enough to produce appropriations bills this year that will get broad bipartisan support at the levels the Senate approved back in March. It will be almost impossible to do so if we ignore amendments adopted on the Senate floor and impose the spending ceiling proposed by the President that is now included in the bill.

I am frustrated that the administration keeps funding this war off budget. I am frustrated that critical investments which we approved in the Senate were removed from the bill. I am very frustrated that this bill is now going to result in our hands being tied throughout the appropriations process. I hope in the future we can do much better.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND HURRICANE RECOVERY, 2006—CONFERENCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the hour of 10 a.m. having arrived, the Senate will proceed to vote on the conference report to accompany H.R. 4939, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4939) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, having met, have agreed that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment, and the Senate agree to the same, signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I intend to vote for this emergency supplemental appropriations conference agreement because of the critical funding it will provide to our troops. Our men and women in uniform, and their families, deserve our support, not just in words but with deeds. This bill also provides important support to our fellow Americans in the gulf coast region who continue to rebuild their communities after the devastation of the 2005 hurricane season.

But I am disappointed that important provisions included in the Senate bill were stripped out in conference. With nearly 150,000 U.S. troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is shameful that this conference report stripped out \$430 million for veterans health care. And I am concerned that this bill short changes the U.S. Coast Guard and important port security measures. Through the regular appropriations process, I will continue to fight for our veterans, and to ensure the security of our coast and our ports.

In this bill, we have provided over \$15 billion to fix or replace equipment that has been damaged during combat operations and to buy additional force protection equipment desperately needed by our brave men and women on the battlefield.

To help protect our troops from deadly improvised explosive devices, IEDs, this bill creates the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund and provides the fund with nearly \$2 billion to develop and field the necessary tactics, equipment, and training to defeat these deadly weapons.

To ensure that we do all we can to care for soldiers when they are injured, this bill includes an additional \$1 billion for the Defense Health program. This money ensures that we can continue to provide world-class services including rapid aero-medical evacuation to our most severely wounded soldiers.

The veterans health care system is stretched to the limit at a time when more and more veterans are turning to VA. That is why I cosponsored an

amendment by Senator AKAKA to increase veterans funding by \$430 million to meet the health care needs of soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and other war veterans. I am very disappointed that this funding was removed in conference but will continue to fight for our veterans to ensure they have the funding needed to receive the care they deserve.

The rank-and-file employees of the Federal Government are the unsung heroes of this country. Unfortunately, they are often required to work in substandard or often hazardous conditions. It was recently reported that employees within this very building are forced to enter tunnels full of asbestos and on the verge of collapse. That is why I cosponsored an amendment by Senator ALLARD that provides over \$27 million for critical emergency structural repairs to the Capitol Complex utilities tunnels. I will continue to fight for our Federal workforce to ensure they have safe working environments and proper safety equipment.

We know that nearly 40 percent of the soldiers deployed today in Iraq and Afghanistan are citizen soldiers who come from the National Guard and Reserves. More than half of these will suffer a loss of income when they are mobilized because their military pay is less than the pay from their civilian job. Many patriotic employers and State governments eliminate this pay gap by continuing to pay them the difference between their civilian and military pay. The reservist pay security amendment, which I worked on with Senator DURBIN, was designed to ensure that the U.S. Government also makes up for this pay gap for Federal employees who are activated in the Guard and Reserves. Again, this important piece of legislation was removed from the bill during conference, but it is not dead with me. I will continue to push for equitable treatment for our Guard and Reserve troops who selflessly serve their Nation.

After 9/11, we realized that our borders were not secure. Since then, we have waged the war on terror and made great strides in protecting our homeland. We have made significant investments in law enforcement and security; however, the infrastructure that supports our border security has been allowed to crumble.

To counter this, I supported an amendment proposed by Senators GREGG and BYRD to add \$1.9 billion for border security initiatives to include buying additional vehicles, airplanes, helicopters, and ships. This amendment also provided \$600 million for the U.S. Coast Guard, the border protector of our waters. Of this amount, \$12 million was for the Mission Effectiveness Program at the U.S. Coast Guard Yard at Curtis Bay, MD. This project is designed to extend the service life and increase the mission performance of the Coast Guard's aging fleet of medium endurance cutters. I regret that in conference the House and Senate agreed to

the President's border security proposal which solely focuses on beefing up the National Guard and border agents along the Nation's southwest border.

I am also disappointed that \$648 million for additional port security initiatives was stripped from the final conference agreement. The Port of Baltimore, in my hometown, recently celebrated its 300th anniversary. It is my responsibility to see to it that the Baltimore community celebrates the port's 400th anniversary. We must continue to provide adequate funding for our ports in the manner we are for our borders.

We have all seen the devastating effects of natural disasters and terrorism and are working hard to prevent future occurrences from affecting our Nation and the world. We have recently learned of another potential threat: a worldwide flu epidemic that could cost millions of lives if we are unprepared. In response to this threat, this bill provides \$2.3 billion to prepare for and respond to an influenza pandemic. Making this money available now will help expand the domestic production capacity of influenza vaccine and will help develop and stockpile the right vaccines, antivirals, and other medical supplies necessary to protect and preserve lives in the event of an outbreak.

Mr. President, this bill is a Federal investment in supporting our troops and their families and providing relief for those impacted by the devastating hurricanes.

We support our troops by getting them the best equipment and the best protection we can provide. We support them by making it easier for our citizen soldiers in the National Guard and Reserves to serve their country. And we support them by ensuring they are cared for with the best possible medical system when they are injured or ill.

With this bill, we are also helping our neighbors rebuild their homes, their communities, and their lives, and I am proud to give it my support.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, the conference report we have before us contains \$94.5 billion in funding for the war on terror, hurricane recovery in the gulf coast, pandemic flu preparation, and border security.

We have to fund our troops. Therefore, I will support passage of this conference report. But I do so with reservations, mainly because resources for the training and equipping of the Iraqi army have been funded well below the level requested by the President. As all of my colleagues know, training and equipping the Iraqi army is imperative to the ultimate success of our mission there. The security of the Iraqi people, ensured by a properly trained and equipped Iraqi army, is our exit strategy.

Unfortunately, the must-pass nature of this bill has led to the inclusion of hundreds of millions of dollars in unrequested, nonemergency spending

and typical run-of-the-mill earmarks. Examples of unrequested and non-emergency additions to this emergency spending bill include three Marine Corps V-22 tilt rotor aircraft, two KC-130J tanker aircraft, four C-130J cargo aircraft, the advance procurement of seven C-17 cargo aircraft, and one Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, UAV. It also includes \$975 million for SINGARS tactical radios, \$675 million in Army tank and Bradley Fighting Vehicle upgrades, \$130 million for Army STRYKER vehicles above combat losses, and \$567 million for Army trucks. None of these were requested by the administration, and they are not critically needed to aid in the war on terror.

Let's take a closer look at just one of these add-ons. The conference report includes \$230 million to buy three Marine Corps V-22s. The President did not request any money for the V-22 Osprey, which is still in the development and testing stage. In fact, the V-22 has not even been deployed to an operational squadron yet. If continued development and testing goes well, the Marine Corps will send the V-22 to an operational squadron in the summer or fall of 2007. I have to question why funding for a nonoperational aircraft that is still in the development stages is considered to be an emergency in this bill. The answer is that there is no emergency need for this aircraft—if there was, I am more than confident that the President would have requested the appropriate funding in the emergency supplemental submitted last February.

Additionally, the conference report contains a provision which authorizes the Secretary of the Navy to reimburse shipbuilding contractors for "business disruptions" that were incurred during and after Hurricane Katrina. This provision may increase Navy shipbuilding costs by \$140 million over what the administration had requested. The provision is expected to primarily benefit Northrop Grumman's shipyard in Pascagoula, MS. This language substitutes Government funding for what insurers would pay to shipbuilders. Northrop Grumman is suing its insurer, Factory Mutual, for those costs associated with Hurricane Katrina. However, in the near term, the appropriators have decided the best course is to arrange a giveaway to an insurance company and a shipbuilder.

Furthermore, the explanatory statement accompanying this conference report contains language stating that the conferees agree with House and Senate language delaying the Department of Transportation, DOT, rulemaking which proposes to give domestic air carriers with foreign investors more control over business matters. Yet this legislative language does not include any related provisions, and rightly so, in my view. This greater control would only be granted for business matters that do not relate to safety or security and only when the investors' home countries provide our airlines with in-

vestment and market access. I assure my colleagues this statement was not included by accident, and its intent seems to be to signal to DOT that Congress does not approve of its proposed rulemaking.

Here are some other notable projects funded as "emergencies" in this measure: \$16 million for hurricane repair in the State of Pennsylvania; \$40 million for sugar and sugarcane disaster assistance in Florida, which was not requested; \$40 million for sugar and sugarcane disaster assistance in Louisiana, which was not requested by the President; \$400,000 for disaster assistance to sugar cooperatives in Texas, which was not requested by the President. \$400,000 to the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal Demonstration barrier, which was not requested by the President; \$9 million in drought emergency assistance to communities in Nevada and New Mexico; \$225,000 to the Missouri Soybean Association for the purchase of a building for use as an incubation center in the Kansas City metropolitan statistical area; \$100,000 to the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington in Silver Spring, MD for renovation of Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington Clubhouse No. 2, Clubhouse No. 4, Clubhouse No. 10, Clubhouse No. 11, and Clubhouse No. 14 in the District of Columbia; \$100,000 to Wesleyan College in Macon, GA, for facility renovation, buildout, and construction; \$125,000 to Craig County, VA, for purchase, renovation, buildout, and upgrade of a library.

I think we can fund this war—and indeed win this war—while also budgeting for this war. We know the war is going to cost more than the over \$400 billion we will have appropriated to date upon enactment of this conference report, and we know that the war is not going to end as quickly as most of us would prefer. But we need to continue our military operations until the job is done. Withdrawing our military presence prematurely is not an option in my view, the view of many of my colleagues, nor the view of the President or his advisers. We are in it to win.

Instead of fixing the problem, and fixing it will not be easy, we have only succeeded in making it bigger, more unstable, more complicated, and much more expensive. And adding hundreds of billions of dollars that are more conveniently designated as emergency expenditures—so that they don't have to be budgeted for along with other national priorities—is only making the fiscal problem that much greater.

Again, Mr. President, it is unfortunate that, at a time of war and with such a huge deficit and burgeoning debt, we continue to fund unnecessary projects and load up emergency supplemental appropriations bills with non-emergency items. We need to concentrate on providing the resources necessary for our young men and women swerving in Iraq to successfully complete their mission, so that they

can return safely to their families, and a grateful Nation.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, the conference report provides needed funds to meet a number of our national security needs. It includes \$65.8 billion of funding for ongoing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, to give our troops the armored vehicles, ammunition, medical supplies, and other materials essential for their operations.

The legislation also provides funds for the Commander's Emergency Response Program, which enables commanders on the ground to pay for urgently needed infrastructure, and also to make condolence payments to Iraqi civilians who are injured or killed. That program is intended to build good will with the Iraqis, and I commend the Appropriations Committee for taking such a strong interest in it.

During consideration of the bill, we had a strong debate about whether the nondefense items in the bill were truly emergencies and belonged in this legislation. Most of us believe they do because the budget process does not allow us to respond quickly to urgent needs, and the emergency supplemental process is the only way we can address them.

It is clear that border security, hurricane relief, and pandemic flu preparations all affect our national security. The need for these funds cannot easily be assessed in advance and made part of the regular budget. But no one can disagree that each has a profound impact on our Nation and has to be addressed.

I commend Senator HARKIN for his leadership on the needed funding to prepare for a pandemic flu. Those of us on the authorizing committee look forward to continuing to work with Senator BURR to see that these funds are used effectively to increase the Nation's readiness for this major disease threat.

I am disappointed that the conference report rejected our Senate amendment to compensate first responders injured by experimental flu vaccines. If pandemic flu reaches our shores, Americans will have to rely heavily on nurses, paramedics, emergency technicians, and other first responders. The question is whether these first responders will risk taking an experimental vaccine so that they can stay on the job and protect us all. The least these brave first responders deserve is fair compensation if they are harmed by the vaccine. We know from past experience that without such a compensation program, first responders will be reluctant to take experimental vaccines. The Senate did the right thing, to fund a compensation program, but Republican leaders inexplicably allowed the House conferees to reject the funds. The message we are sending to first responders is obvious—"You're on your own" and a pandemic will be even more disastrous if it hits.

I am very pleased, however, that our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee included critical funding to provide relief to elementary and secondary schools in the gulf region and to schools across the country that generously opened their doors to young students whose lives were turned upside down by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. This additional funding will help ensure that the schools that educated displaced students are reimbursed for the additional costs incurred during this school year so that they can continue to provide good education for all the children they serve.

The schools, colleges, and universities are a cornerstone of the gulf communities, and their recovery is essential to the successful rebuilding of the region. I am disappointed that the conferees rejected a Senate provision that would have leveraged hundreds of millions of dollars of low-cost loans for these colleges and universities. I am pleased, however, that the conferees increased the grant aid in the bill to help these colleges and universities rebuild. These funds are a step in the right direction to enable these institutions to remain a vital part of the gulf coast.

On the issue of education, we know that countless families across America are struggling to put their children through college. The last thing they need is an increase in interest rates on student loans. I commend the Appropriations Committee for expanding loan consolidation options and resisting efforts by lenders to increase the burden of college debt. Last February, Congress perpetrated the biggest raid on college aid in the history of the program, cutting \$12 billion from student loan programs to help pay for tax giveaways to the wealthy. We need to do more to help struggling families afford college, and the committee's action on this bill is a step in the right direction.

This bill includes an important provision to support our objective of promoting democracy in Iraq. It includes \$50 million for American nongovernmental organizations helping Iraqis to create the essential building blocks of democracy. The funds will go to seven nongovernmental organizations doing excellent work in Iraq on democracy and reconciliation under extremely difficult and dangerous conditions. We must be clear in our commitment to stand by these organizations that are serving on the front lines in the struggle for democracy in Iraq every day. We need to demonstrate to the Iraqi people that we are committed to Iraq's long-term democratic development. We must have a long-term strategy backed by appropriate resources, and this bill is a start toward achieving our goal.

While this bill contains much that is positive, I strongly oppose the decision of our Republican colleagues to include a deeming resolution in this conference report that will impose an unreasonably low limit on discretionary spending for next year. This cap means that critical domestic programs will be cut.

It is a sorry substitute for a real budget.

The deeming resolution completely ignores the Senate-passed budget. It sets a spending cap \$16 billion below the level approved by a bipartisan majority of Senators in the Senate budget resolution. It wipes out an amendment passed by the Senate to add \$7 billion for urgent health and education needs. It cuts funding for vital medical research by the National Institutes of Health. It underfunds the No Child Left Behind education initiative by \$55.7 billion over the next 5 years. It sets the wrong priorities for America.

This deeming resolution indicates a willingness on the part of Republicans in Congress to blindly follow the Bush administration's reckless strategy of cutting essential domestic programs American families depend upon while providing more and more tax breaks for the wealthiest taxpayers in the country. It is outrageous. It is one more failure for a Republican leadership that consistently takes the country in the wrong direction.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise to acknowledge a tangible result of our Federal Government's investment in preparing for a possible flu pandemic. This week, the U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, in partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society launched the Global Avian Influenza Network for the Surveillance of wild birds, or the GAINS program.

GAINS systematically tests and monitors wild and dead birds to identify the viral strains they carry, to share the virus samples in order to continually update vaccine production options, and to disseminate lab results on a map-based publicly accessible database. Major flyways around the world will be monitored including those running north-south through the Americas.

I wish to recognize Chairman COCHRAN from Mississippi and Senator BYRD from West Virginia, along with my colleagues, Senator HARKIN from Iowa, Senator SPECTER from Pennsylvania, and Senator BROWNBACK from Kansas, for their commitment to avian flu preparedness and for putting in place an effective system for the surveillance of wild birds. GAINS is instrumental to our capacity to prepare communities in the wake of wild birds moving with the virus for a potential outbreak.

At the same time we work to develop a vaccine and procure antivirals, we can also track the movement of the virus in wild birds. GAINS can track wild birds in the same way the National Hurricane Center tracks hurricanes. By analyzing, storing, and reporting using a real-time computerized data mapping system and interface, we can see the viral strains wild birds carry, where they are carrying the virus along migratory routes, and how the virus is genetically evolving. This will make it possible for us to develop

vaccines more quickly using the most recent strain available and will help us warn vulnerable populations in wild bird flightpaths should the avian flu strain turn deadly.

I am happy to report that the GAINS program and Dr. William Karesh at the Wildlife Conservation Society have already contributed vital disease samples of the highly pathogenic H5N1 virus from Mongolian swans to the efforts currently under way to develop a human vaccine for avian influenza.

The Wildlife Conservation Society has partnered with USAID and the CDC to spearhead this effort. They are an international conservation organization headquartered at the Bronx Zoo in New York and have offices across the world, including my home State of Connecticut. With more than 3,000 full-time staff working in 60 countries around the world on more than 400 field conservation projects, the Wildlife Conservation Society is well positioned to lead the global efforts to monitor the disease in birds and provide key information to local communities to mitigate the effects of future outbreaks. Our Government's capacity to build partnerships such as this one and continue to fund them with nongovernmental organizations with tremendous expertise and others in the private sector is key to effectively fighting a potential pandemic.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, this supplemental appropriation provides funds that are urgently needed by our Armed Forces to sustain the global war on terror and our operations to stabilize Iraq and Afghanistan. The \$70 billion provided in this appropriation for military operations brings America's investment in this fight to over \$445 billion since September 11, 2001. Included in this appropriation are funds necessary to keep our Guard strong and ready and to ensure that our reservists have access to essential medical coverage for themselves and their families.

With respect to domestic assistance in this bill, while it is not perfect, because it removed funding for port security and veterans' health care, and greatly reduced the amount of agriculture assistance that was originally included in the Senate passed bill, it does provide immediate aid to the people of the gulf coast to help in their continuing effort to recover from last year's hurricanes.

I thank the chairman and ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, Senator COCHRAN of Mississippi and Senator BYRD of West Virginia, for their leadership and even handedness in crafting this supplemental measure. They have been very kind towards my constituents and I am most appreciative of their efforts. This supplemental addresses three areas critical to the continued recovery and vitality of Florida.

Florida was hit by eight hurricanes in 15 months and the recovery continues, even as Tropical Storm Alberto

traversed the State yesterday. I know that my colleagues from the gulf coast are also well aware of the long-term challenges facing their States and are bracing themselves for another active hurricane season. We all learned valuable lessons from the disasters of the past 2 years and we will face the coming months together.

I am pleased that this supplemental includes some relief for the State of Florida's hard hit agriculture industry. In 2005 as in 2004, the Florida agriculture industry sustained more than \$2 billion in losses. One of the hardest hit industries was the sugar industry, so the \$40 million in assistance this bill provides to the sugar producers will be critical. Our specialty crops and nursery growers also will receive a much-needed share of the \$95 million provided in the bill.

The measure also provides the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, with emergency funding. I cannot emphasize how important the work of this agency is to Florida. It includes the National Marine Fisheries Service, NMFS, that plays a key role in Florida because of our significant fishing industry—both recreational and commercial. And the National Weather Service whose hurricane forecasts many times mean the difference between life and death for Floridians. This emergency supplemental provides \$150 million for mapping for debris removal, oyster bed and shrimp ground rehabilitation, the repair and reconstruction of the NOAA science facility on the Gulf of Mexico and a replacement emergency response mapping aircraft to provide information about hurricane damage—all desperately needed.

Additionally, the conference report maintains the Senate funding level of \$5.2 billion for the Community Development Block Grant, CDBG, program. The President's original request was for \$4.2 billion to address the utter devastation caused by Katrina in Louisiana. Yet unmet needs from the previous Gulf of Mexico hurricanes still remain in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas. This level of CDBG funding will ensure that all States harmed by last year's hurricanes will receive an adequate level of continued support so that they may continue to invest in long-term recovery efforts, provide housing and business assistance, perform infrastructure reconstruction, and undertake mitigation efforts.

Specific to Florida, additional CDBG funds will greatly help Panhandle communities impacted by Hurricane Dennis, who were not eligible for the last round of disaster CDBG funds, and the heavily populated areas of South Florida where insured damages from Wilma were estimated at \$7.4 billion. Hurricane Wilma was a major hurricane, the final major storm of last season, causing the highest amount of insured losses to southeast Florida since Hurricane Andrew over a decade ago.

Chairman BOND and Ranking Member MURRAY included a provision in the bill that will help address the backlog of emergency highway repairs. I thank them for their efforts, as this provision is vital to Florida's Panhandle which was pummeled by Hurricane Ivan in 2004 and then by Dennis in 2005. It includes language lifting the mandatory cap of \$100 million in spending per state. Florida has about \$118 million in damages left over from Dennis, most of it concentrated along US-98, which runs along the coast of Florida from Tallahassee to Pensacola, a distance of over 200 miles.

The assistance contained in the supplemental will go a long way towards the recovery of the gulf coast and I will support this measure.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate is approving today the conference report on this supplemental appropriations bill.

The bill provides funding to replenish the spending accounts of the Department of Defense, the Department of State, as well as other agencies and departments of the Government which are engaged in the war on terror. The conference report also makes available needed funding for efforts to repair and rebuild the homes, businesses, and public facilities that were damaged by hurricanes that struck the Gulf Coast region last year.

A bipartisan majority of the conferees have reconciled the differences between the two bills and reached agreement on the conference report. The House also approved the conference report by a vote of 351 to 67.

The conference agreement provides a total of \$94.519 billion. Of this amount, over \$70 billion is provided to carry out the global war on terror and to cover the expenses of ongoing operations and reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Title II of the agreement provides \$19.338 billion for hurricane related damage and recovery costs. Title III provides \$500 million for agriculture disaster assistance to hurricane affected areas. Title IV includes \$2.3 billion for influenza pandemic preparation and response activities. Title V provides \$1.9 billion for various border security initiatives. Title VI includes \$27.6 million for the Architect of the Capitol to address health and safety concerns in the utility tunnels in the Capitol complex. Finally, title VII includes general provisions and technical corrections.

This conference agreement is the result of hard work and true compromise between the House and Senate, and I am pleased the Senate is prepared to approve it.

Mr. COCHRAN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the conference report. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MURKOWSKI). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 98, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 171 Leg.]

YEAS—98

Akaka	Dole	Martinez
Alexander	Domenici	McCain
Allard	Dorgan	McConnell
Allen	Durbin	Menendez
Baucus	Ensign	Mikulski
Bayh	Enzi	Murkowski
Bennett	Feingold	Murray
Biden	Feinstein	Nelson (FL)
Bingaman	Frist	Nelson (NE)
Bond	Graham	Obama
Boxer	Grassley	Pryor
Brownback	Gregg	Reed
Bunning	Hagel	Reid
Burns	Harkin	Roberts
Burr	Hatch	Salazar
Byrd	Hutchison	Santorum
Cantwell	Inhofe	Sarbanes
Carper	Inouye	Schumer
Chafee	Isakson	Sessions
Chambliss	Jeffords	Shelby
Clinton	Johnson	Smith
Coburn	Kennedy	Snowe
Cochran	Kerry	Stabenow
Coleman	Kohl	Stevens
Collins	Kyl	Sununu
Conrad	Landrieu	Talent
Cornyn	Lautenberg	Thomas
Craig	Leahy	Thune
Crapo	Levin	Vitter
Dayton	Lieberman	Voinovich
DeMint	Lincoln	Warner
DeWine	Lott	Wyden
Dodd	Lugar	

NAYS—1

Specter

NOT VOTING—1

Rockefeller

The conference report was agreed to.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Madam President, today I voted in favor of the fiscal year 2006 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery conference report despite my serious reservations about using an emergency supplemental bill to fund ongoing U.S. operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and despite the fact that the bill fails to change the flawed and dangerous policy in Iraq that this administration is pursuing. That policy is taking a tremendous toll on our Nation's resources and our national security, and I will continue to look for every opportunity to force the Senate to debate and vote on changing that policy.

I supported the conference report because it included necessary funding for our troops, along with vital assistance to those communities devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and to those suffering in war-torn countries and those countries in need of immediate funding for their newly formed democracies. I am particularly pleased to see that \$618 million is being provided for establishing peace in Darfur and \$63 million for supporting the nascent Liberian Government that was recently elected.

Mr. COCHRAN. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. LEVIN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. COCHRAN. Madam President, I thank all Senators for their patience and support during our deliberations on this conference report. I think the vote reflects strong sentiment that we have reached an agreement that is fair. It reflects respect for the administration's budget request and remaining within that budget request.

I appreciate the cooperation of all members of our Appropriations Committee and the full Senate as well.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BURR). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is my understanding that the Department of Defense authorization bill is the pending business before the Senate.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 2766, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2766) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Santorum amendment No. 4234, to authorize, with an offset, assistance for pro-democracy programs and activities inside and outside Iran, to make clear that the United States supports the ability of the people of Iran to exercise self-determination over their own form of government, and to make enhancements to the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act of 1996.

McCain amendment No. 4241, to name the act after John Warner, a Senator from Virginia.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, is there an amendment pending to the Defense authorization bill?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct, there are two amendments pending.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that those amendments be set aside.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 4253

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Illinois [Mr. DURBIN], for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. INOUE, Ms. MI-

KULSKI, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. REED, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. INHOFE, proposes an amendment numbered 4253.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To require a pilot program on troops to nurse teachers)

At the end of subtitle E of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 662. PILOT PROGRAM ON TROOPS TO NURSE TEACHERS.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Education, conduct a pilot program to assess the feasibility and potential benefits of a program to—

(A) assist nurse corps officers described in subsection (c) in achieving necessary qualifications to become nurse educators and in securing employment as nurse educators at accredited schools of nursing;

(B) provide scholarships to nurse corps officers described in subsection (c) in return for continuing service in the Selected Reserve or other forms of public service; and

(C) help alleviate the national shortage of nurse educators and registered nurses.

(2) DURATION.—Except as provided in subsection (h), the pilot program shall be conducted during the period beginning on January 1, 2007, and ending on December 31, 2012. A nurse corps officer may not enter into an agreement to participate in the pilot program after December 31, 2012.

(3) REGULATIONS.—The pilot program shall be conducted under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Education.

(b) DESIGNATION.—The pilot program required by subsection (a) shall be known as the "Troops to Nurse Teachers Pilot Program" (in this section referred to as the "Program").

(c) NURSE CORPS OFFICERS.—A nurse corps officer described in this subsection is any commissioned officer of the Armed Forces qualified and designated as an officer in a Nurse Corps of the Armed Forces who is—

(1) serving in a reserve component of the Armed Forces;

(2) honorably discharged from the Armed Forces; or

(3) a retired member of the Armed Forces.

(d) SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS IN PROGRAM.—

(1) APPLICATION.—An eligible nurse corps officer seeking to participate in the Program shall submit to the Secretary of Defense an application therefor. The application shall be in such form, and contain such information, as the Secretary may require.

(2) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall select participants in the Program from among qualified nurse corps officers submitting applications therefor under paragraph (1).

(e) PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A nurse corps officer selected under subsection (d) to participate in the Program shall enter into an agreement with the Secretary of Defense relating to participation in the Program.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The agreement of a nurse corps officer under the program shall, at the election of the Secretary for purposes of the Program and as appropriate with respect to that status of such nurse corps officer—

(A) require such nurse corps officer, within such time as the Secretary may require, to accept an offer of full-time employment as a